

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 PC-01 /067 W

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R 130547Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5873

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: GALLA ARMY IN HARARGHE?

1. US NAVY OPHTHALMOLOGISTS WORKING IN HARAR REPORT THAT DEMONSTRATIO
N

OF APPROXIMATELY 3,000 LOCAL FARMERS TOOK PLACE IN HARAR CITY ON
AUGUST 10. DEMONSTRATORS WERE CARRYING RED FLAGS AND CHANTING IN
UNISON AND, ACCORDING TO LOCAL INFORMANTS, WERE MEMBERS OF A
"GALLA ARMY" ORGANIZED BY STUDENT CAMPAIGNERS. CAMPAIGNERS HAD
ALLEGEDLY ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ADAR TRIBE-- WEALTHY
LANDHOLDERS IN THAT AREA. DEMONSTRATION LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE
HOUR AND WAS BROKEN UP BY THIRD DIVISION TROOPS AND MILITARY POLICE
ON ORDERS OF GOVERNOR.

2. ALSO TAKING PART IN DEMONSTRATION WAS GROUP OF 12 TO 16 YOUTHS--
"COLLEGE STUDENT TYPES"-- WHO WERE DRESSED IN NEW GREEN UNIFORMS
UNLIKE ANY GOVERNMENT UNIFORM SOURCES HAVE SEEN, WITH LARGE
RED STAR ON CAP AND POCKET. WHEN SEEN ON PREVIOUS OCCASION THESE
UNIFORMED MEN WERE MARCHING IN FORMATION WITH FRONT RANK CARRYING
RED FLAGS AND REAR RANK CARRYING RIFLES. THEY DID NOT APPEAR
HOSTILE TO AMERICANS RIDING IN AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN VEHICLE.

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3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST REPORT EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CONCERNING

ORGANIZATION OF A "GALLA ARMY." AS FOR UNIFORMED MEN, MOST PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANATION IS THAT THEY ARE GALLA ZEMETCHA STUDENTS ATTEMPTING
TO PLAY ON GALLA NATIONALISM.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS09732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750279-0526
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750854/aaaabvkq.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GALLA ARMY IN HARARGHE?
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006